

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS) Board of Trustees Elections – 2010

Elections for three positions on the ATRS Board of Trustees are scheduled in March 2010: Position #2 (Second Congressional District Trustee), Position #9 (Retired Trustee), and Position #11 (Retired Trustee) to fill an unexpired term of two (2) years.

Candidates for Position #2 must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be an active member of ATRS (includes T-DROP participants).
2. Must have five (5) years of credited service in ATRS.
3. Must be employed in a position requiring a state teaching certificate or employed by an ATRS-covered agency in a position between Grade C117 – C126. Such trustee shall not be employed as a school administrator (superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, vice principal, president, chancellor, or director of a state institution of higher education, community/technical college, or vocational center/cooperative), or employed in a position Grade C127 and above with an ATRS-covered agency.
4. Must be employed in the congressional district from which he/she is elected.
5. If a candidate holds two or more positions, i.e., works as a teacher and bus driver, eligibility shall be determined by his/her primary employment.

Eligible Voters for Position #2 include:

Active ATRS members (includes T-DROP participants) who are employed in the congressional district. Such members must also be employed in a position that requires a state teaching certificate or employed by an ATRS-covered agency in a position between Grade C117 – C126. Such members must not be employed in positions as school administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, vice principal, president, chancellor, or director of state institution of higher education, community/technical colleges, or vocational centers/cooperatives) or employed in an ATRS-covered position Grade C127 and above.

Candidates for Position #9 and Position #11 must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a retiree receiving an annuity paid by ATRS.
2. Must be a resident of the State of Arkansas.

Eligible Voters for Position #9 and Position #11 include:

ATRS retirees receiving an annuity paid by ATRS.

The Board of Trustees shall employ an independent contractor who will mail ballots to eligible voters' home addresses and will also collect, count, and certify election results.

- Deadline for nomination: January 11, 2010¹
- Ballots mailed: March 15, 2010
- Deadline for ballots to be returned: April 15, 2010
- Results certified: April 20, 2010

If no candidate receives a majority of votes, a run-off will be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. The schedule for the run-off will be as follows:

- Run-off ballots mailed: May 3, 2010²
- Deadline for ballots to be returned: June 1, 2010
- Results certified: June 7, 2010³

If one of the above fixed dates is on a weekend or holiday, the above procedures will occur on the next regular work day following such weekend or holiday.

If a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, he/she will be considered qualified to assume office on July 1. If a run-off is necessary, the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast will be considered qualified and will assume office on July 1.

¹ In the ATRS Rules and Regulations, the deadline for nomination is January 10; however, because January 10, 2010, falls on a Sunday, the ATRS Rules and Regulations provide for any fixed date in the election schedule that falls on a holiday or a weekend, the official date shall become the next business day.

² In the ATRS Rules and Regulations, the run-off election ballots are to be mailed on May 1; however, because May 1, 2010, falls on a Saturday, the ATRS Rules and Regulations provide for any fixed date in the election schedule that falls on a holiday or a weekend, the official date shall become the next business day.

³ In the ATRS Rules and Regulations, the date for certification of election results is June 5; however, because June 5, 2010, falls on a Saturday, the ATRS Rules and Regulations provide for any fixed date in the election schedule that falls on a holiday or a weekend, the official date shall become the next business day.

The term of office for Position #2 and Position #9 is six (6) years. The trustee elected to fill position #11 will fill an unexpired term of a vacating trustee, and will serve two (2) years of the remaining term. Each trustee shall continue to serve as trustee until his or her successor is elected and has qualified.

A member trustee will be considered ineligible to serve after becoming inactive or upon retiring. A member trustee in Positions #1 through #7 shall be ineligible to serve if they change employment category during the term of office, i.e., an administrator becomes a classroom teacher. A retirant trustee shall be ineligible to serve after becoming active.

Nomination for election shall be upon petition signed by not less than 25 voters eligible to vote in the specified election. Such petitions must also have the last four digits of the Social Security number of the nominee and each signer in order for the Retirement System to verify the petition. Petitions may be requested from the office of the ATRS Executive Director by calling 501-682-1827 or toll free at 1-800-666-2877.